



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187



RECEIVED

MAY 11 2016

ELLINGTON TOWN CLERK Members

Wilson D. Flynn
Alan Lewandosky
Andrew McCoy
Peter Hany, Jr.
Daniel Joy
Cheryl Samborski
John Takach
Rhonda Villanova
Ted C. Graziani

Student Representative

Miranda Graziani
Nicholas Pina

J. Wiley Dumas
Chairman

Bruce Warkentin
Vice Chairman

April 26, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

In attendance were: Wiley Dumas, Bruce Warkentin, Wilson Flynn, Cheryl Samborski, Al Lewandosky, Pete Hany, and Rhonda Villanova. Daniel Joy, Jacob Schlenner and Nicholas Pina joined the meeting at 7:23pm.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from January made by Al and 2nd by Cheryl.

Unfinished/New Business: Memorial Day Parade

First order of business was to appoint Pete Hany as Parade Chairman. We determined to meet on May 17th for Parade “panic” meeting. We will leave May 24th as a backup date. The Memorial Day parade is scheduled for Monday, May 30th.

Wiley confirmed all permits for road closures have been cleared for the parade. Bruce is coordinating students/veterans willing/ready to do interviews again at Ellington Middle School to be presented at the Ellington High School ceremony. The video process includes students with Principal Pearson and Bruce. The process is informal. Al said he will ask at the American Legion regarding types of questions kids will be allowed to ask. The videos will be 5 to 8 minutes each. We have veterans from Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Al heard from Lane Johnson that he won’t be doing signs in the center of town this year. The option is to go down early Monday morning to Crystal Lake – although Dave Milnes usually handles the Crystal Lake area. We will need stakes with hard paper signs where every group stands at the start of the parade for the center of town parade.

We still need to check for cars/convertibles – maybe from Bolles or Ludwigs? We need 2 or 3 cars. Wilson offered his mini-cooper for the Poppy Queen and 3 veterans.

Cheryl recommended needing a vehicle for the Women’s Auxiliary due to the advanced age of members. It was suggested maybe contacting JT Farms for a tractor in the future.

The 1st Selectman’s office took care of paperwork for parade coverage (Officer Santa).

Al asked about the bagpiper group. Dave Grim had contacted them in the past. Wilson said he will try to contact.

Pete talked to Gary at the Fire Department regarding taking some of the responsibilities to read names. He is trying to find 2 people to read. Pete reminded us that the Fire Department in town was started by the American Legion and they have a duty to step up to this task.

Pete had questions regarding the sound system for Crystal Lake and Ellington center cemeteries. As he will be serving as MC, should he have something prepared?

Al will have rifles for the gun salute at the cemeteries. Wilson asked about the Governor's Foot Guard. We realized it may be too late as they are booked for other Memorial Day parades. However, we should contact them regarding the Wreaths Across America ceremony in December.

Options to consider for the parade itself: Bruce suggested that the VFW may be able to get 2/3 of marchers to march with flags. Hopefully, this may cover the combined Auxiliary, Legion and Girl Scout groups. Wilson asked about the Knights of Columbus having flags to borrow for the day. The decision for marchers to carry flags also includes MIA flags and/or black ribbons to signify the memorial aspect of the day.

Pete had an idea to offer packets with guidelines for participants regarding "decorating" vehicles, including signs or flags. Also, offering the actual decorations for a fee as a fundraiser to support the Memorial Day parade. For our August meeting this year we can discuss notification set up for options available for participation/flags/wreath and costs. Currently prices are: \$19/flag, \$15/wreath (every 2/get 1 free).

Inclusion of the MIA ceremony at the EHS ceremony was confirmed to anyone missing from the previous meeting.

Pete will contact Matt Delassus at the high school for someone to play Taps at the cemetery(ies). Jacob Schlenner offered to check on this as he may be the one performing the piece.

Rhonda had a question regarding where to march as she is also with the Ellington CERT group.

New Business:

Wilson received a call from Ellington Mortuary saying they didn't get paid for the POW plaque. The invoice was not forwarded(?) He mailed it to Wilson and he walked it over to the Finance people. The amount was not on the budget.

Wreaths Across America: The total we are reaching for is 450 wreaths/veterans in the cemetery. This would equate to 300 wreaths purchased as for every 2, we get 1 free. How are we going to raise money? Fireman's Fair, Farmer's Market? We could have a weekly table with a sign and have people from the committee to receive any donations. The shifts for the Farmer's Market could be for the full 3 hours or 1 hour each. We could aim for 8 or 9 Farmer's Market visits. There are 3 nights of Fireman's Fair to cover. Also, we may be able to advertise at Casey's Bar for a biker's night specifically to fundraise for WOA.

Task list would include sign preparation whether for the Farmer's Market or for around town. We need to meet early September/October to set signs for WOA wreath sale and ceremony in December.

November 30th is the cut-off to order wreaths for this year. Big Y, Stop & Shop and Star Hardware may be targeted for advertising or tables for fundraising. Gerry's Donuts and TSI may also be options

to place signs. Are there any better ways to advertise in order to reach our goal of 450/500 wreaths – if we include Crystal Lake cemetery veterans? There are at least 50 vets buried there. We can set up a separate account for Crystal Lake on the WOA website for 2017. We can think about setting up a ceremony at Crystal Lake for 2017 as well.

Grace Boucher and her brother tied up wreaths at one of the cemeteries last year.

We need to get media attention for this year.

Last ideas regarding the Memorial Day Parade: Program discussion included whether we need one this year. There was no program in 2015. Wilson will ask the clerk's office to update the letter and get envelopes. Al needed the Pastors' names for the Crystal Lake ceremony (Pastor Maureen Glenholt, Crystal Lake United Methodist) and the Ellington cemetery (Pastor Russell Buisch, Ellington Baptist Church) to contact for this year.

A form for custodian assistance at the high school is needed. Daniel helped last year with chair set-up as the custodian wasn't advised of what was needed.

Wilson addressed the two new student representatives and their requirements as follows: attend meetings, non-voting members until they are 18 years old, bring ideas and ask questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Next meeting: May 17, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Rhonda Villanova

Digitally signed by Rhonda Villanova
DN: cn=Rhonda Villanova, o=Ad Hoc Patriotic
Committee, ou=Secretary,
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Date: 2016.05.10 18:39:51 -04'00'